

Message Text

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E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. OPEC REVERBERATIONS

OMAN WOULD LIKE TO EARN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE FROM EACH
BARREL OF OIL, AS ITS PRODUCTION WILL SOON BEGIN TO FALL.
NONETHELESS, EMBASSY MUSCAT EXPECTS THE OMANI GOVERNMENT
EVENTUALLY WILL DECIDE TO FOLLOW THE SAUDI/UAE LEAD
BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF AID FROM THOSE TWO COUNTRIES.

NIGERIA COULD HAVE ITS CAKE AND EAT IT TOO, REPORTS
EMBASSY LAGOS. BECAUSE OF THE COMPLEX DIFFERENTIAL
SYSTEM, NIGERIA COULD INCREASE PRICES BY SUBSTANTIALLY
LESS THAN 10 PERCENT WHILE CLAIMING THAT THEY WERE IN-
CREASED BY THE FULL AMOUNT AGREED AT THE OPEC MINISTERIAL.
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ALGERIA'S ACTING CHIEF OF EXTERNAL MARKETING BAYOU RE-
FUSED TO DISCUSS PRICES WITH EMBASSY ALGIERS, SAYING THAT
EACH SALE WAS SEPARATELY AND SECRETLY NEGOTIATED. BAYOU
SAID ALGERIA'S CRUDE WAS OF SUCH HIGH QUALITY THAT THERE
WOULD BE NO PROBLEM SELLING IT REGARDLESS OF SAUDI

ACTIONS. THE EMBASSY NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT THEIR SECRE-
TIVENESS GIVES THE ALGERIANS CONSIDERABLE LATITUDE FOR
UNDERCUTTING THE OPEC PRICE.

ECUADOR'S MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES HAS ANNOUNCED A
TENTATIVE GOVERNMENT DECISION TO RAISE OIL PRICES 10
PERCENT ON JANUARY 1. IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT, THE MINISTER
SAID THAT THE OPEC MAJORITY DECISION HAD BEEN JUSTIFIED.

KUWAITI MINISTER OF STATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS HUSSEIN WAS
QUOTED IN THE KUWAIT PRESS AS SAYING THAT THE FULL OPEC
PRICE INCREASE WAS REASONABLE.

INDONESIAN MINISTER OF MINING SADLI WAS QUOTED AS STATING
DURING A VISIT TO KUWAIT THAT THE OPEC 11 WOULD NOT
RETREAT FROM THEIR DECISION. HE SAID THE OPEC MAJORITY
WILL NOW WAIT OUT THE CHANGE IN US ADMINISTRATIONS BEFORE
CONCLUDING WHETHER THE DOHA SPLIT WOULD HAVE LASTING
EFFECTS. (CONFIDENTIAL) MUSCAT 1593, 12/26, (LIMITED
OFFICIAL USE) LAGOS 14237, 12/23, (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)
ALGIERS 2988, 12/23, (UNCLASSIFIED) QUITO 8887, 12/23 AND
(UNCLASSIFIED) KUWAIT 5913, 12/22.

2. EGYPT AND SYRIA TO CAMPAIGN FOR GENEVA TALKS

PRAISING THE SYRIAN-EGYPTIAN "UNIONIST" MOVEMENT, THE
CAIRO PRESS ANNOUNCED THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL UNDER-
TAKE A WORLDWIDE DIPLOMATIC DRIVE TO BRING ALL PARTIES TO
THE GENEVA CONFERENCE NO LATER THAN MARCH.

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EMBASSY CAIRO COMMENT: THERE IS CLEARLY AN INCREASED
SENSE OF URGENCY IN THE GOE-SARG PEACE MANEUVERS, DUE IN
PART TO THE FORTHCOMING ISRAELI ELECTIONS. (LIMITED
OFFICIAL USE) CAIRO 17723, 12/23.

3. SINGAPORE: DOLING OUT MORE PAP

SINGAPORE'S RULING PEOPLE'S ACTION PARTY (PAP) MADE A
CLEAN SWEEP OF THE DECEMBER 23 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS,
WINNING EACH CONTESTED SEAT AND INCREASING ITS SHARE OF
THE TOTAL VOTE TO 75 PERCENT. THE PAP CONTINUES TO
CONTROL EVERY SEAT IN PARLIAMENT. EMBASSY SINGAPORE
EXPECTS NO CHANGE IN PRESENT GOS POLICIES AND NO IM-
MEDIATE IMPACT ON US INTERESTS, BUT NOTES THAT THIS THIRD
CONSECUTIVE ELECTORAL SWEEP FOR THE RULING PARTY MEANS
THAT AN ENTIRE GENERATION OF SINGAPOREANS WILL HAVE NO
EXPERIENCE WITH DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION IN A NOMINALLY
DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY. OVER THE LONG RUN, THE EMBASSY

EXPECTS AN INCREASE IN BOTH GOVERNMENT ARROGANCE AND
OPPOSITION FRUSTRATION. THE EMBASSY IS ALSO CONCERNED
THAT A DETERIORATING POLITICAL CLIMATE COULD MAKE THE US

A TARGET FOR INCREASED CRITICISM. (UNCLASSIFIED)
SINGAPORE 5740, 12/24 AND (CONFIDENTIAL) SINGAPORE 5696,
12/21.

4. SOVIETS LINK FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WITH MBFR

ACCORDING TO THE IRISH EMBASSY IN MOSCOW, GROMYKO TOLD
VISITING FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD THAT NATO'S RE-
JECTION OF THE WARSAW PACT PROPOSAL FOR RENUNCIATION OF
FIRST USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NFU) WAS A "CONDITIONED
RESPONSE" PROMPTED BY COLD WAR CONSIDERATIONS. LINKING
THE NFU PROPOSAL WITH MBFR, GROMYKO ALSO SAID THAT NFU
COULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT INFLUENCE ON THE VIENNA TALKS.

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EMBASSY COMMENT: SOVIET SIGNALS ABOUT AN UNDEFINED NFU-
MBFR LINKAGE MAY INDICATE THAT THE USSR, SURPRISED BY
NATO'S QUICK REPLY, IS TRYING TO DRESS UP ITS PROPOSAL.
THE LATENESS OF THIS LINKAGE DOES NOT MEAN THAT THE WEST
HAS HEARD THE LAST OF IT. (CONFIDENTIAL) MOSCOW 20039,
12/23.

5. POLES QUIETLY STRENGTHEN UK TIES

EMBASSY LONDON REPORTS THAT THE FIRST VISIT OF A POLISH
PRIME MINISTER SINCE WORLD WAR II PRODUCED SUBSTANTIAL
ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR THE UK, BUT LITTLE FOR POLAND.
AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED FOR BRITISH CONSTRUCTION OF UP TO
22 SHIPS, AN AIR TERMINAL, AND TWO HOTELS FOR POLAND. IN
ADDITION, PRIME MINISTER JAROSZEWICZ REPORTEDLY TOLD
CALLAGHAN IN PRIVATE THAT HE WELCOMED THE US/UK MILITARY
PRESENCE IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN
INCREASE IN THE BRITISH ARMY OF THE RHINE. JAROSZEWICZ
IS SAID TO HAVE EXPRESSED IN THIS REGARD A STRONG POLISH
MISTRUST OF THE GROWING POWER OF NOT ONLY THE FRG, BUT
THE GDR AS WELL.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THESE AGREEMENTS WILL EXACERBATE THE
LONG-STANDING TRADE IMBALANCE IN BRITAIN'S FAVOR, BUT
JAROSZEWICZ MAY WELL BE PLEASED WITH THE POLITICAL
BENEFITS OF BEING ABLE TO EMPHASIZE POLAND'S INDEPENDENT
BILATERAL TIES WITH A EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MEMBER.
(CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 20686, 12/23.
ROBINSON

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